

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

July 22, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
July 22, 2015
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, Easton Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Absent: Warner (1) Work Related

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor and Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor. There were thirty-four other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Ms. Mauro the Agenda was amended by removing item (f) from under New Business, an Ordinance or Resolution for waiving, for two years, no more than three unrelated individuals in a residence in the College Zoning district, by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Vulcano, Ruggles, Mauro, Edinger, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Brown the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Ms. Mauro the July 8, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 22, 2015

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

Edward Black, 3411 Freemansburg Avenue, Coach for the Easton Aquatic club, thanked the Mayor, Council and the City employees for their support and the use of Heil Pool for their swim meets. He also spoke regarding a young girl who began her swimming competition career with their club and who is now competing in the Olympic Trials.

Council members thanked Mr. Black and his fellow coaches for their years of dedication to the sport and to the children of the community.

Josh Palmer, 126 E. Wayne Avenue, owner of Sette Luna, spoke regarding the proposed Resolution regarding street eateries. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their work on bringing this idea forward. He spoke regarding the increase from \$5.00 to \$11.00 per day for parking metered spaces.

Council members addressed Mr. Palmer's concerns regarding the increase in cost for parking metered spaces and regarding the different parts of the Street Eatery program.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano the following items was adopted by the following vote:

Bill 21, (Ordinance 5501), Amending Sections 56-5 Daily deposit of monies received, and Section 56-10, Authorized signatories, of Chapter 56, Finance of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which removes the words City Treasurer and Treasurer and replaces them with the Director of Finance or their designee.

Bill 22, (Ordinance 5502), Amending Section 110-21 B, of Chapter 110, Pensions, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which removes the words City Treasurer and replaces them with the Director of Finance or their designee.

Bill 23, (Ordinance 5503), Amending Section 285-16 D, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the Codes of the City of Easton, Pa., which removes the words City Treasurer and replaces them with the Director of Finance or their designee.

Bill 24, (Ordinance 5504), Amending Sections in Chapter 422, Plumbers, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which removes the words City Treasurer and replaces them with Director of Finance or their designee and Department of Finance.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 22, 2015

Bill 25, (Ordinance 5505), Amending Sections in Chapter 427, Police Services Cost Recovery, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which removes the words Treasurer of the City and replaces them with Director of Finance.

Bill 26, (Ordinance 5506), Amending Sections in Chapter 515, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which removes the words City Treasurer and replaces them with Director of Finance or their designee.

Bill 27, (Ordinance 5507), Amending sections contained in Chapter 554, Trees, Shade, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which removes the words City Treasurer and replaces them with City of Easton and Department of Finance.

Bill 28, (Ordinance 5508), Amending Section 560-77, Collection and disposition of fees and revenues, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which removes the words Public Works and replaces them with Finance, removes the words his or her and replaces them with their, removes the words general revenue and replaces them with parking authority and removes the words City Treasurer and replaces them with Director of Finance or their designee.

Resolution 124-2015, in which Council and joins the Nation in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act on Friday August 14, 2015.

Resolution 125-2015, which approves reappointments and appointments to various Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

Resolution 126-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for the refurbishing of windows and trim at 27 N. 3rd Street.

Resolution 127-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of a black decorative fence along the sidewalk area of the municipal parking lot at 56 N. 3rd Street.

Resolution 128-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for the removal and replacement of the current 12' x 16' mural panel with a larger 24' x 20' mural panel at 108-116 Northampton Street.

Resolution 129-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of new signs at 342 Northampton, 165 Northampton, 101-107 S. 4th and 458 Ferry Streets.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 22, 2015

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, had no report

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that she had met with Dawn Ferrante, the new Director of Community and Economic Development.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, was absent due to work commitments.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding concerns which he had on the unsafe condition of a property on the North side of the 500 block of Northampton Street, which is owned by the Rock Church.

Stephen Nowroski, Director of Codes addressed Dr. Ruggles concerns and spoke regarding the past history of that property and explained what was being done to address all the properties owned by the Rock Church.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee, had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor and Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, spoke regarding the proposed Resolution regarding approving a job description for a Full Time Second Assistant City Solicitor, and said at this time they were not supporting the establishment of this position.

There was a discussion between Council members, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Scheer and Mr. Heagele regarding the establishment of the Second Assistant City Solicitor position, with questions asked if the position was really needed, questioning of different sections in the job description, and the Solicitors stating that they were not involved in the decision to establish this position.

Mr. Edinger said that he would withdraw the proposed Resolution, later in the meeting, and would hold an Administrative Committee meeting on August 11, 2015 to further discuss this matter.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the Mayor's Summer Youth Camp, gave an update on the new City Hall, the Parking Garage and the Transportation Facility, and spoke regarding a news article regarding the City of Easton that was in the Reading Eagle.

Dr. Ruggles informed Council that he would not be attending the August 11, 2015 Council Committee meeting and the August 12, 2015 Council meeting because of work commitments.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 22, 2015

CORRESPONDENCE

The following Correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Peter Kohler, letter regarding billing for Fire services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A July 3, 2015 e-mail, regarding needed Ordinance changes, was received from Lt. Matthew Lohenitz.

Bill 29, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Ms. Mauro and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would create a No parking zone on the East side of N. 3rd Street, sixty (60') feet south of the intersection with Bushkill Street.

Bill 30, Amending Section 285-40 F, Police Department, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Ms. Mauro and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase the cost of Meter Covers from \$8.00 to \$15.00 per day.

Bill 31, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 531, Tax Abatements, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend sections by deleting the words "Treasurer" and "City Administrator" and replacing them with "Director of Finance or their designee".

A July 1, 2015 memorandum, regarding a Pennoni Contract, was received from Carl Manges, Chief Planner.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a contract with Pennoni Associates for alternate engineering and sewer enforcement officer services through July 10, 2017.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

130-2015

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 22, 2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Ruggles (6)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a 2015 Street Eatery Pilot Program and further approved the City of Easton 2015 Street Eatery Pilot Guide, the City of Easton Street Eatery Program Application Process Overview and the Licensing and Operating Agreement for Street Eateries.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

131-2015

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown a vote was taken to amend the \$11/day/parking space for each day street eatery activities occupy use of the parking space, to \$8 per day. The motion was defeated by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Panto
Nays: Mauro, Edinger, Vulcano, Ruggles

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Ms. Mauro by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro (6)
Nays: None (0)

A July 16, 2015 memorandum, regarding Council Agenda items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the City to apply for a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development grant in the amount of \$210,000 for streetscape improvements to 13th Street around the Silk Mill Complex.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

131-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles (6)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 22, 2015

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Job Description for a Second Assistant City Solicitor, Full Time position; the Resolution was withdrawn by Mr. Edinger.

MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH CAMP PARTICIPANTS PRESENTATION

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the past week's Summer Youth Camp.

The following Camp attendees spoke regarding their reasons for wanting to participate in the camp, what they liked most during the camp and what they would like to see happen in the City.

Eric Perry recommended the establishment of a Boxing Gym in the City and explained the reasons why.

Dana Hinkson would like to see a solar powered piece of equipment to turn snow into water to assist in the removal of snow, and would like to see a fund established to assist in pot hole fixing.

Jasmine Reed would like to see a rehabilitation center established near the prison or Government Center to assist the homeless, drug addicts and alcoholics and to keep these people out of the downtown area.

Taylor Johnson would like to see a clothing drive to help the needy residents throughout the City.

Jake Louis recommended a ban on the use of Plastic Bags and explained why he made the request.

Dr. Ruggles spoke regarding the pollution caused by Plastic Bags in Africa.

Jahara Karem presented a power point presentation on the use of a Crushcrete for construction waste materials.

Delaney Jordan recommended more pressure be placed on Landlords to give more information on their renters; such as number and type of pets, number of vehicles owned, etc.

Mrs. Vulcano said that there are requirements now placed on Landlords regarding information on their tenants, but did like the addition of the information on their pets.

Sham Meta recommended more investing in the middle class population of the City.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 22, 2015

Thomas Meeh recommended building an admissions free swimming pool in the downtown area of the City.

Jarrett Guth recommended having more animal shelters in the City and would like to see train shows which would draw more tourists to the City.

Taylor Daza recommended the filling of vacant properties throughout the City.

Josiah Graziano recommended more pressure be put on the District Attorney not to offer or accept plea deals.

All Council members commended the Camp members for participating in the program, and thanked and commended the Mayor and his staff for the program.

Mayor Panto presented each participant with an individual Certificate of Participation.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

There were no comments from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p. m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk